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9 February 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: [] the USSR Under Andropov

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2. [] that the ministerial and deputy-ministerial levels of the trade ministries are crippled by a sort of bureaucratic paralysis. No decisions are being made for fear of making the wrong decision. The possibility of a major bureaucratic shake-up in the wake of Andropov's elevation has stopped routine trading business cold.

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The general consensus among US, European, and Hungarian negotiators is that the paralysis could continue for a long time, at considerable cost to the Soviet economy.

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3. [] Hungary [] views Andropov as a friend and protector. It is under Andropov's prodding that for years Soviet technical teams have been visiting Hungary to study that country's economic experiments. [] Janos Kadar and his aides laugh off the notion of transplanting the Hungarian experiment to the Soviet Union. They say the Soviet technical teams simply cannot grasp the Hungarian approach, and that the structural and political changes required for success are beyond the

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Soviet capacity. Andropov, the Hungarians believe, will make the effort and fail.

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